

Functional Projection *You* ‘Have’ in Taiwan Mandarin and Intensification

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This study proposes that the functional head *you* ‘have’ in Taiwan Mandarin merely signals intensification, and it projects the head under IntenP (i.e., Intensification Phrase), when it goes with situational predicates. Previous literature claims that *you* in (1a-b) serves as aspectual marker because it results in the multiple temporal readings and also as assertive marker to affirm events (Huang, 1988; Tsai, 2002; Sun, 2005; Lan, 2009; Zhang, 2015; Li, 2021). However, little research concerns the compatibility of *you* with a state (1c-d). The study hence offers an alternative analysis that *you* functions as Inten⁰ and only conveys intensification under cartographic syntax (Rizzi, 1997, 2004a, 2004b; Cinque, 1999): a functional head merely holds one feature within a fixed order in the hierarchic structure, i.e., a functional head merely holds one feature.

- (1) a. Aldo you [PredP mai-le san-pen shu].
Aldo HAVE buy-PFV three-CL book
‘I certainly bought three books.’
b. Aldo you [PredP zai xie zuoye].
Aldo HAVE PROG write assignment
‘Aldo certainly is writing the assignment.’
c. Aldo you [PredP shuai].
Aldo HAVE handsome
‘Aldo certainly is handsome.’
d. Aldo you [PredP xihuan mao].
Aldo HAVE like cat
‘Aldo certainly likes cats.’

This study argues that the contradictory temporal construals are derived from whether a predicate is telic or atelic (cf. Bohnemeyer & Swift, 2001; Lin, 2003) rather than from the multiple features of *you*. For instance, the predicate itself in (2a) is atelic because of the progressive aspect *zai*; on the other hand, the predicate itself in (2b) is telic due to the perfective aspect *le*. Obviously, the temporal construals rely on the (a)telicity of the propositions described by clauses.

- (2) a. Aldo you [zai xie zuoye].
Aldo HAVE PROG write assignment
‘Aldo certainly is writing the assignment.’
b. Aldo you chi-le na-ke pingguo.
Aldo HAVE eat-PFV that-CL apple
‘Aldo certainly ate that apple.’

It is argued against *you* serving as affirmative head (cf. Li, 2021) in that a declarative sentence conveys an affirmative construal *per se* under Searle (1976), and from a semantic standpoint, a speaker utilizes *you* to intensify the higher degree of the speaker’s emphasis toward the truth of a proposition. Interestingly, the examples (3) without *you* still are grammatical while they do not trigger any intensification.

- (3) a. Aldo [PredP mai-le san-pen shu].
Aldo buy-PFV three-CL book
‘I bought three books.’
b. Aldo [PredP zai xie zuoye].
Aldo PROG write assignment
‘Aldo is writing the assignment.’
c. Aldo [PredP shuai].
Aldo handsome
‘Aldo is handsome.’
d. Aldo [PredP xihuan mao].
Aldo like cat
‘Aldo likes cats.’

Since *you* is compatible with the degree words, such as *bijiao* ‘COMP’ and *hen* ‘very’, it also supports that *you* conveys higher degree of the speaker’s emphasis on an event or a state, and the position is syntactically higher than DegP (see Zhang, 2015) or vP (the position of bleached *hen*, see Grano, 2010). This study also offers the interactions of *you* with the other functional heads and (aspectual) situational predicates and shows the position within a fixed order in the hierarchy.

To sum up, this study offers a unified syntactic analysis on Taiwan Mandarin *you* ‘have’, along with diverse situational predicates. *You* is a functional head and serves as Inten under IntenP to trigger intensification.

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